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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20549

FORM 6-K

PURSUANT TO RULE 13A-16 OR 15D-16 OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

REPORT OF FOREIGN ISSUER

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2002

THE THOMSON CORPORATION
(Translation of registrant's name into English)

METRO CENTER
ONE STATION PLACE
STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
UNITED STATES 06902
(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F [ ]   Form 40-F [X]

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes [ ]   No [X]

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-.

Information furnished on this form:

Press release dated May 2, 2002 announcing the financial results of The Thomson Corporation for the three months ended March 31, 2002.

EXHIBIT

EXHIBIT NUMBER		PAGE
1.	Press release dated May 2, 2002	4

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

THE THOMSON CORPORATION
(Registrant)

By: /s/ STEPHANE BELLO

Stephane Bello
Senior Vice President and Treasurer

Date: May 2, 2002

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THOMSON REPORTS FIRST-QUARTER 2002 RESULTS

(Unless otherwise stated, all amounts are in US dollars)

TORONTO, MAY 2, 2002 - The Thomson Corporation (TSX:TOC) today reported first-quarter 2002 revenues and earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) in line with the Corporation's expectations. Revenues from ongoing businesses were $1.7 billion, an increase of 13 percent over the first quarter of 2001. EBITDA from ongoing businesses increased less than one percent to $229 million for the quarter. Due to the seasonal nature of certain businesses, principally within the Learning group, the Corporation's first-quarter results are not indicative of expectations for full-year performance.

The loss from continuing operations for the first quarter of 2002 was $34 million, or $0.05 per common share, compared to earnings from continuing operations in the first quarter of 2001 of $151 million, or $0.24 per share, which in the first quarter of 2001 included a one-time gain principally associated with the sale of The Globe and Mail. Excluding one-time items in both periods, and after adjusting the 2001 results for a new accounting rule that reduces amortization, as if the rule had been in effect for 2001, the comparative quarterly 2002 results were a loss from continuing operations of $32 million, or $0.05 per common share, compared to earnings from continuing operations of $7 million, or $0.01 per share, for the first quarter of 2001. The change primarily reflects dilution from the acquisition of select Harcourt businesses, due to higher interest and amortization costs as well as one-time integration costs.

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"The continued revenue growth in the Thomson legal, learning, and scientific and healthcare businesses in an uncertain economic environment reflects the strength of our market-leading brands," stated Richard J. Harrington, president and chief executive officer of The Thomson Corporation. "While weak financial markets impacted the growth of our financial group during the quarter, our ongoing efforts to fully integrate our businesses, to leverage initiatives across each of our market groups, to introduce new products and strengthen our customer relationships are paying-off as we continue to drive growth and profitability."

FIRST-QUARTER BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS:

- Legal and Regulatory revenues and EBITDA grew seven percent over the comparable 2001 period to $665 million and $138 million respectively. Westlaw continued to show strong growth in the quarter, particularly in the U.S. and Europe, where usage of the online legal product increased significantly. Revenue growth for the Legal and Regulatory group also benefited from the contribution of newly acquired companies. Revenue growth was negatively impacted by currency translation effects.

- The 65 percent increase in Learning revenues reflected strong core academic business performance and contributions from all Harcourt businesses. Most of the profits for the Learning group typically arise in the second half of the year due to the seasonal nature of its academic businesses. Therefore, first-quarter results are not indicative of the anticipated performance for the full year. The EBITDA loss for the quarter was $12 million, which included one-time integration charges and the seasonal loss from the Harcourt academic businesses, as compared to an EBITDA loss of $10 million a year ago.

- Financial group revenues, particularly in the investment banking and sales and trading markets, continued to be affected by the global slowdown in the financial markets, resulting in a revenue decline of two percent to $388 million. EBITDA increased two percent to $96 million, from the comparable 2001 period, reflecting efficiencies gained from leveraging and integration initiatives. These comparisons are against a very strong first quarter of 2001. In the first quarter of 2002, the Financial group introduced First Call Analyst, a Web-based investment research and analytical tool that couples sophisticated management tools and portfolio analytics with Thomson content and is fully exportable to Microsoft Excel. Initial response to the product, particularly in Asia and Europe, has been extremely positive.

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- In the first quarter, Scientific and Healthcare revenues grew eight percent over the comparable 2001 period to $169 million. Revenues increased because of contributions from the Gardiner-Caldwell acquisition; increased drug information subscriptions within Micromedex; increased patent subscriptions from Derwent World Patent Index and increased sales from citation, patent and genetic information through the ISI Web of Science. EBITDA grew 18 percent to $33 million, reflecting the strong sales and synergies realised from prior-year restructuring efforts in the Healthcare business.

- Effective January 1, 2002, Thomson adopted a new accounting rule under CICA Handbook Section 3062 (equivalent to FASB 142 in the United States). Under the new rule, goodwill and identifiable intangible assets with indefinite lives are no longer amortized, but are subject to impairment tests based on fair value. Thomson recently completed its initial impairment review under the new rule and has recognized a non-cash impairment charge to retained earnings in the first quarter of 2002 of $67 million after-tax. This impairment represents less than one percent of the Corporation's identifiable intangible assets and goodwill at March 31, 2002. Thomson expects to record an additional non-cash impairment charge of up to $100 million in the second quarter in connection with the application of the new rule by its equity method investees. This additional non-cash charge will also be reported as a reduction to retained earnings.

- Corporate and other costs included within EBITDA were $13 million higher for the first quarter of 2002, largely as a result of higher costs associated with stock appreciation rights.

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The Corporation reaffirmed that its long-term financial targets are to achieve average annual revenue growth between seven percent and nine percent and to expand EBITDA margins. Revenue growth and EBITDA margins for 2002, excluding one-time Harcourt integration costs, are expected to be in line with these long-term targets.

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DIVIDEND

The directors of The Thomson Corporation today declared a dividend of 17.5 cents per common share, the same rate of dividend as paid on March 15, 2002. The dividend is payable on June 17, 2002 to holders of common shares of record on May 23, 2002, other than holders of related common shares of The Thomson Corporation PLC (Thomson PLC) who have elected to receive the equivalent dividend of 12.0060 pence per related common share of Thomson PLC in lieu of dividends from The Thomson Corporation.

Thomson announced today that its principal shareholder, The Woodbridge Company Limited, has extended its commitment to reinvest at least 50 percent of the dividends received by it and its subsidiaries from Thomson in newly issued common shares under the Thomson dividend reinvestment plan for a further three years to June 2005. The commitment was originally made in June 1989, has since been extended twice, and was scheduled to expire in June 2002.

COMMON SHARE OFFERING

In a separate announcement this morning, Thomson stated it has filed a registration statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a preliminary prospectus with securities regulatory authorities in Canada in connection with a proposed public offering of common shares by Thomson and by its principal shareholder, The Woodbridge Company Limited. In connection with the offering, Thomson has applied to list its common shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

REDEMPTION OF THE THOMSON CORPORATION PLC COMMON SHARES

In connection with the proposed U.S. listing, The Thomson Corporation PLC (Thomson PLC), a subsidiary of Thomson, has decided to redeem all of its outstanding 1p common shares. As a result, effective today, Thomson shareholders will no longer be able to acquire shares of Thomson PLC. This decision reflects the administrative and other costs associated with these shares. Commencing with its third quarter dividend, Thomson will offer its common shareholders the ability to receive dividends on their Thomson common shares paid in British pounds sterling.

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THE THOMSON CORPORATION

The Thomson Corporation, with 2001 revenues of $7.2 billion, is a global leader in providing integrated information solutions to business and professional customers. The Corporation's common shares are currently listed on the Toronto and London stock exchanges.

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NOTE: THE THOMSON CORPORATION WILL WEBCAST A DISCUSSION OF FIRST-QUARTER RESULTS BEGINNING AT 10:30 AM EDT TODAY. TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WEBCAST, PLEASE VISIT WWW.THOMSON.COM AND CLICK ON THE "INVESTORS" TAB LOCATED AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE.

Note: Ongoing businesses exclude disposals. Disposals are businesses sold or held for sale, which do not qualify as discontinued operations. Our results from continuing operations exclude the results of our discontinued newspaper operations. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortization and restructuring charges (EBITDA), and operating profit before amortization and restructuring charges (adjusted operating profit), are used by us to measure our operating performance, including our ability to generate cash flow. EBITDA, adjusted operating profit and related measures do not have any standardized meaning prescribed by generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and therefore are unlikely to be comparable with the calculation of similar measures for other companies, and should not be viewed as alternatives to operating profit, net income, cash flow from operations or other measures of financial performance calculated in accordance with GAAP. EBITDA and adjusted operating profit are included in our income statement, which allows you to reconcile them with standard GAAP measures.

This news release includes forward-looking statements, which are based on certain assumptions and reflect the Corporation's current expectations. These forward-looking statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results or events to differ materially from current expectations. Some of the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from current expectations are: actions of our competitors; failure of our significant investments in technology to increase our revenues or decrease our operating costs; failure to fully derive anticipated benefits from our acquisitions; failure to develop additional products and services to meet our customers' needs, attract new customers or expand into new geographic markets; failure to meet the special challenges involved in expansion of our operations outside North America; failure to recruit and retain high quality management and key employees; consolidation of our customers; increased self-sufficiency of our customers; increased accessibility to free or relatively inexpensive information sources; failure to maintain the availability of information obtained through licensing arrangements and changes in the terms of our licensing arrangements; changes in the general global economic conditions; inadequate protection of our intellectual property rights; an increase in our effective income tax rate; impairment loss affecting our goodwill and identifiable intangible assets recorded on our balance sheet; and failures or disruptions of our electronic delivery systems or the Internet. Additional factors are discussed in the Corporation's materials filed with the securities regulatory authorities in Canada and the United States from time to time. The Corporation disclaims any intention or obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EARNINGS
(millions of US dollars, except per common share data)
(unaudited)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2002	2001
Revenues	1,662	1,497
Cost of sales, selling, marketing, general and administrative expenses	(1,434)	(1,270)
Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortization and restructuring charges	228	227
Depreciation	(119)	(110)
Operating profit before amortization and restructuring charges	109	117
Amortization	(66)	(102)
Restructuring charges	(6)	(5)
Operating profit after amortization and restructuring charges	37	10
Net gains on disposals of businesses and investments	3	273
Net interest expense and other financing costs	(72)	(46)
Income taxes	7	(69)
Equity in losses of associates	(6)	(10)
(Loss) earnings before dividends declared on preference shares	(31)	158
Dividends declared on preference shares	(3)	(7)
(Loss) earnings from continuing operations	(34)	151
Earnings from discontinued operations	--	16
(Loss) earnings attributable to common shares	(34)	167
Basic and fully diluted (loss) earnings per common share:		
- from continuing operations	(0.05)	0.24
- from discontinued operations	--	0.03
	(0.05)	0.27
SUPPLEMENTAL EARNINGS INFORMATION:		
(Loss) earnings from continuing operations, as above	(34)	151
Adjust for one time items:		
Net gains on disposals of businesses and investments	(3)	(273)
Restructuring charges	6	5
Tax on above items	(1)	75
Effect of new accounting standard(1)	--	49
Adjusted (loss) earnings from continuing operations	(32)	7
Adjusted basic and fully diluted (loss) earnings per common share from continuing operations	($0.05)	$ 0.01

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF EARNINGS

(1) Represents the reduction of amortization, net of tax, of identifiable intangible assets and goodwill as if the new accounting rules were in effect in 2001.

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BUSINESS SEGMENT INFORMATION
(millions of US dollars)
(unaudited)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2002	2001	CHANGE
Revenues:			
Legal and Regulatory	665	623	6.7%
Learning	397	241	64.7%
Financial	388	396	-2.0%
Scientific and Healthcare	169	157	7.6%
Corporate and other(1)	48	54	-11.1%
Intercompany eliminations	(9)	(9)	
Total ongoing businesses	1,658	1,462	13.4%
Disposals(2)	4	35	
Total Revenues	1,662	1,497	11.0%
EBITDA:(3)			
Legal and Regulatory	138	129	7.0%
Learning	(12)	(10)	-20.0%
Financial	96	94	2.1%
Scientific and Healthcare	33	28	17.9%
Corporate and other(1)	(26)	(13)	
Total ongoing businesses	229	228	0.4%
Disposals(2)	(1)	(1)	
Total EBITDA	228	227	0.4%
Adjusted Operating Profit:(4)			
Legal and Regulatory	99	91	8.8%
Learning	(41)	(35)	-17.1%
Financial	57	57	0.0%
Scientific and Healthcare	27	21	28.6%
Corporate and other(1)	(31)	(15)	
Total ongoing businesses	111	119	-6.7%
Disposals(2)	(2)	(2)	
Total adjusted operating profit	109	117	-6.8%

NOTES TO BUSINESS SEGMENT INFORMATION FOR CONTINUING OPERATIONS

(1) Corporate and other includes the results of the Thomson Media group, a non-reportable segment comprised of businesses that provide specialized information to commercial banks and financial services and financial planning companies, as well as corporate costs and costs associated with Thomson stock appreciation rights.
(2) Disposals consist of the results of businesses sold or held for sale, which do not qualify as discontinued operations.
(3) EBITDA is earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, amortization and restructuring charges.
(4) Adjusted operating profit is operating profit before amortization and restructuring charges.

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